

**REMARKS**

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action of August 6, 2004. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Asai et al. In addition, claims 1-6 and 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawamura et al. In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the present invention. As result, it is believed that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Asai et al. nor Kawamura et al.

The present is directed to permanent magnet alternator which includes a rotor assembly mounted for rotation within a stator body wherein the rotor assembly includes a rotor body having a first rotor body section with an outer circumferential surface and a second rotor body section with an outer circumferential surface. Importantly, a plurality of permanent magnets are fixedly mounted on the outer circumferential surfaces of each of the rotor body sections. This design reduces weight and simplifies manufacturing of the rotor body.

Asai et al. and Kawamura et al. both individually fail to anticipate the present invention as recited in newly amended independent claim 1 for the following reasons. Asai et al. admittedly discloses a permanent magnet alternator including a rotor assembly having a rotor body. However, the rotor bodies disclosed in the various embodiments of the Asai et al. reference did not include two rotor body sections having respective outer circumferential surfaces with magnets mounted on the outer circumferential surfaces of both rotor body sections. In fact, the outer circumferential surface of rotor body part 2 and the Asai et al. design does not have permanent magnets attached thereto. Therefore, Asai et al. does not anticipate the present invention as recited in newly amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, Kawamura et al. also fails to disclose first and second rotor body sections wherein magnets are fixedly mounted on both of the outer circumferential surfaces of the two rotor body sections. Kawamura et al. only discloses mounting magnets on the outer surface of one rotor body section. Thus, Kawamura et al. does not anticipate the present invention as recited in newly amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of newly amended independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Asai et al. or Kawamura et al. is in order and respectfully requested. Likewise, it is respectfully requested that dependent claims 2-9 are likewise allowable in that they depend from what is believed to be allowable base claim 1.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Asai et al. or Kawamura et al., further in view of West. In response, claim 10 has been amended to clarify the present invention and specifically to include a rotor body formed of first and second rotor body sections positioned in abutment to form an enclosed hollow cavity. Neither Asai et al., Kawamura et al. nor West suggest a rotor body formed of two sections positioned in abutment to form an enclosed hollow cavity as recited in newly amended independent claim 10 and shown in the embodiment of Figure 5 of the present application. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the combination of Asai et al., Kawamura et al. and West could not and does not render the present invention obvious.

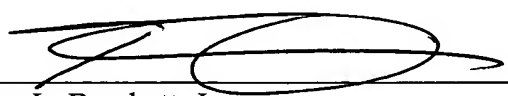
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is in order and respectfully requested.

New claims 17 and 18 are hereby added to more fully protect the present invention. New claims 17 and 18 are believed to be allowable not only in that they depend from allowable base claim 1 but also in that no prior art appears to disclose the recited features.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone

Respectfully submitted,

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